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Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the Specification as follows:

Please amend all references to "Figure 9" to -- Figures 9A & 9B -- as follows

At page 14 of the specification, use these replacement paragraphs, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(b).

FIGURES 9A & 9B ~~is~~ are black and white photographs of laminin digested with elastase, separated by SDS-PAGE and following interaction with biotinylated A β (1-40). A ~ 55 kilodalton laminin fragment (arrow) that binds biotinylated A β was identified and sequenced. Note also the presence of a ~ 130 kDa fragment (arrowheads) that binds A β following 1.5 hours of elastase digestion (lane 2). ~~Panel A~~ Figure 9A is a ligand blot using biotinylated A β as a probe, whereas ~~panel B~~ Figure 9B is Coomassie blue staining of the same blot in ~~Panel A~~ Figure 9A to locate the specific band(s) for sequencing.

FIGURE 10 shows the complete amino acid sequence of the mouse laminin A chain. Sequencing of the ~ 55 kilodalton A β -binding band shown in ~~Figure 9~~ Figures 9A & 9B leads to the identification of an 11 amino acid segment (underline and arrowhead) within the laminin A chain. This A β binding region of laminin is situated within the globular domain repeats of the laminin A chain.

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At ~~page 41~~ of the specification (Example 6), use these replacement paragraphs, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(b).

In ~~Figure 9~~, ~~Panel A~~ Figure 9A represents an A β ligand blot whereas ~~panel B~~ Figure 9B represents the equivalent Coomassie blue stained blot. As shown in ~~Figure 9~~, ~~Panel A~~ Figure 9A (lanes 2 and 3), elastase-digested laminin produced multiple protein fragments which bound biotinylated A β (1-40). ~~Panel A~~ Figure 9A, lane 1 represents undigested mouse EHS laminin, whereas lanes 2 and 3 represents laminin which had been digested with elastase for 1.5 hours or